

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor



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**Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
Notice of Meeting to Solicit Public Comments and Intent to Act
Upon Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services**

**Public Hearing September 30, 2016
Minutes**

Date and Time of Meeting: September 30, 2016 at 9:07 AM

Name of Organization: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Place of Meeting: Nevada State Legislative Building
401 South Carson Street, Room 3137
Carson City Nevada 89701

Place of Video Conference: Grant Sawyer Office Building
555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4412E
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Teleconference: (877) 4002-9753

Access Code: 7316372

Attendees

In Carson City, NV

Darrell Faircloth, SDAG	Elizabeth Aiello, DHCFP
Lynne Foster, DHCFP	Chris Frank, Maxim Health Care Services
Mary Gordon, DHCFP	Gianna Papa, Amerigroup
Tiffany Lewis, DHCFP	Chris Frank, Maxim Health Care
Denise Stokich, DHCFP	Adrienne Navarro, DHCFP
Connie McMullen, Personal Care Association	

In Las Vegas, NV

Megan Testa, Nurse Care

Jennifer Basilio, Home Health Care of
Northern Nevada

Teleconference

Michael Diazio, PKN Organization

Introduction:

Ms. Lynne Foster, Chief of Division Compliance, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), opened the Public Hearing introducing herself, Ms. Elizabeth Aiello, Deputy Administrator of the DHCFP and Mr. Darrell Faircloth, Senior Deputy Attorney General (SDAG).

Ms. Foster – The notice for this public hearing was published on August 30, 2016 in accordance with 42 CFR 447.205.

1. Public Comment

- Ms. Connie McMullen wanted to thank the DHCFP on the rate adjustments for the home care industry, especially in the rural communities. She said that the last rate increase was about 10 years ago, but it was scaled back by the recession. She said it is important for people to receive the services that they desperately need. She mentioned that personal care givers provide difficult work such as bathing, grooming and dressing. It is just as time consuming as physical and occupational therapy. Therefore, Ms. McMullen believes the personal home care services deserve a rate increase just as well as anyone else. She knows that it is not on the agenda today but she would like the DHCFP to consider it.

Ms. Foster thanked Ms. McMullen for her comments.

- Mr. Michael Diazio wanted to know if there would be another chance for public comments once the discussion is specifically about the increase to the home health care services industry.

Ms. Foster replied that he is correct.

2. Discussion of Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services and Solicitation of Public Comments

Subject: State Plan Attachment 4.19-B, page 2 – Home Health Care Services

Ms. Mary Gordon:

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy is proposing an amendment to revise the reimbursement rates that were approved by the 2015 Nevada State Legislature. Revised rates were established July 1, 2016 and are effective for services provided on or after that date. As revised rates will supersede the current pediatric enhancement, this amendment will also be eliminating the pediatric enhancement for services listed in a.5, effective July 1, 2016.

Estimated Change in Annual Aggregate expenditures: An estimated increase in annual aggregate expenditures for

SFY 2017: \$9,160,058.00

The effective date is July 1, 2016

Ms. Gordon wanted to clarify for the record, on the rate schedule draft, the redline rates are not the historical rates for the procedure codes, they were the original proposed rates. The rates in red next to the redlined rates are the recommended rates to be effective July 1, 2016. She stated that there is no decrease in rates related to this proposed amendment.

At the conclusion of Ms. Gordon's presentation, Ms. Foster asked Ms. Aiello, Deputy Administrator, and Mr. Faircloth, SDAG, if they had any questions or comments.

Ms. Aiello's Comments:

- Ms. Aiello requested that staff make a change to the division's name so that it reads Division of Health Care Financing and Policy.

Mr. Faircloth's Comments:

- Mr. Faircloth requested that the given link <http://dhcfp.nv.gov/Resources/RatesMain> works or to substitute instructions as how to access the link.

Public Comments:

- Mr. Diazio questioned why this particular industry got an increase when others like the PCA industry have not received anything.

Ms. Lewis responded that these rates were put forward at the previous legislative session as part of the recommended budget. It was run up through the department and the governor's office. She stated that the Legislature makes the final determination from the Governor's recommended budget what is or is not included.

Mr. Diazio said that explains the process, but he still questioned why Medicaid put in this particular industry but not the other providers.

Ms. Lewis said that the Division makes recommendations for a multitude of different provider types and then it goes through the administrative process to determine which of those actually move forward.

Mr. Diazio wanted to confirm that there were other groups recommended but only this one got an adjustment. He stated that his industry didn't get one and many other provider groups didn't get one either.

Ms. Aiello stated that through the legislative budget process in the 2015 session, this was the rate increase they approved. It went through the debate and submission processes. She commented that the Legislature did not approve the rate in the first year. They approved it for the second year of the biennium which would have been July 1, 2016. Ms. Aiello admitted that the Division is behind in getting this out, which is why it is coming to hearing now with a retroactive date.

- Mr. Chris Frank remarked that they are a large provider of private duty nursing services with two offices, one in Las Vegas and one in Reno. They are very appreciative of the rate adjustment. He stated that the rate increase will help them attract and retain nurses, particularly those that work with children on ventilators, tracheostomy tubes and feeding tubes. All this is taking place in the home, at a cost less to the state, because they are not in a hospital. Mr. Frank recommended that after a year or so, come back and see if the rate adjustment actually attract more nurses.

Ms. Aiello commented that our Rate unit constantly looks at rates and the impact of the rates. She stated that it is our goal to provide access to all of the health care services.

Ms. Foster – Closed the Public Hearing for the SPA on State Plan Attachment 4.19-B, page 2 – Home Health Care Services.

4. General Public Comments

- No comments

There were no further comments and Ms. Foster adjourned the public hearing at 9:22 AM.

****An Audio (CD) version of this meeting is available through the DHCFP Administration office. For more detailed information on any of the handouts, submittals, testimony and or comments please contact Ellen Felsing at Ellen.Felsing@dhcftp.nv.gov or (775) 684-3684 with any questions.***